THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. The cumulative number of registered SSI units in the years 1997, 1998 and 1999 were 23.52 lakhs, 24.47 lakhs and 25.39 lakhs respectively. Information on the number of functioning units is not available centrally.

(c) Total priority sector advances by the public sector banks and share of SSI in those advances is as follows :—

	Amount outstanding (Rs. Crore) as at year ending		
	March 1997	March 1998	March 1999
Total priority sector advances	79131	91319	107200
Credit to SSI	31542	38109	42674
Percentage share of SSI to total priority sector advances	39.86	41.73	39.81

Labourers Engaged in SSI Sector

† 4246. SHRI BALWANT SINGH RAMOOWALIA :
SHRI KAPIL SIBAL :

Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether it is a fact that Government have made any estimate regarding the number of labourers engaged in the small scale industrial sector in the country;

(b) if so, the number of the people engaged in the small scale industrial units during 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 separately; and

(c) the percentage of these people out of those working in die entire industrial sector ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE) : (a) and (b) The estimated number of persons

†Original notice of the Question was received in Hindi.

employed in small scale sector during the years 1997-98, 1998-99 and 1999-2000 were 167.20 lakhs, 171.58 lakhs and 178.50 lakhs-respectively. Estimates regarding the number of labourers engaged in the small scale industrial sector in the country are not maintained.

(c) The percentages of these people out of those working in the entire industrial sector is estimated at 35.45%.

National Programme for Rural Industrialisation

4247. SHRI R.S. GAVAI : Will the Minister of SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES be pleased to state :

(a) whether Government propose to launch the National Programme for Rural Inustrialisation;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) whether the Khadi and Village Industries Commission has suggested some measures in this regard;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) the reaction of Government thereto ?

THE MINISTER OF STATE OF THE MINISTRY OF SMALL SCALE INDUSTRIES AND AGRO AND RURAL INDUSTRIES (SHRIMATI VASUNDHARA RAJE): (a) and (b) The Government has launched a National Programme for Rural Industrialization (NPRI) in 1999-2000. Under this Programme, 100 rural clusters are to be established every year by dovetailing the existing Government programmes. The Khadi and Village Industries Commission (KVIC) has identified 50 such clusters. The KVIC is developing these clusters by creating Common Facility Centres in such clusters. The small Industries Development Bank of India (SIDBI) has also selected 25 clusters. The rest have been taken up by the O/o Development Commissioner (Small Scale Industries) and the National Bank for Agriculture and Rural Development (NABARD).

(c) to (e) The KVIC has suggested to integrate various schemes for maximum impact at the cluster level and also to create a brand' for the marketing of village industries products. KVIC has been advised to implement the NPRI by dovetailing the existing programmes. Action has also been initiated to create a brand' for the marketing of village industries products.